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BRIEF MENTION.

Mr. WALTER LEAF's edition of the *Iliad*, Books I-XII (Macmillan & Co., 1886), will be reviewed at length in the next number of the Journal by a competent hand, and will there receive the praise that is richly due to it. Meantime it has been thought best not to withhold a criticism of sundry points that give a certain hold to the *advocatus diaboli*, who can never be absent when a book is to be canonized. Mr. Leaf's notes not only show good acquaintance with the current of Homeric study, but are full of independent suggestions, although one is disposed to rebel sometimes at the persistency with which the editor recalls some of his own lucubrations. Instead of one long and exhaustive note apiece on Lange's view of the conditional sentence, on Brugmann's theory of *sva*, and the editor's own interesting but not convincing treatment of *ἐπειν* and *ἐπεσθαι*, we are annoyed both by a recurrence to the same theme, line upon line and precept upon precept, and by a certain fitfulness of presentation, as if the writer had forgotten what he had said before. In short, the book reminds one too much of the editor's *Story of Achilles*, the defects as well as the merits of which were pointed out in this Journal II 107; and the intervening six years of study and experience have not brought as much skill as might have been expected in what may be called the manufacture of a text-book. The confused and confusing note on B 435 would have been cleared up by the simple consideration of the fact that *μηκέτι* in Greek is not absolutely equivalent to "no longer" in English, and does not require that an action should actually have begun, but only that the temptation should be present. See the commentators on Pind. O. 1, 5. 114. "The canonical authority of the Catalogue during the period of Attic literature" (B 557) ought to have been more fully illustrated. So under v. 719 by a reference to the Philoktetes of Sophocles 1027. B 597 read, "There is no necessity or other justification for saying that the opt. [here] represents the subj. of *or. recta*." In commenting on B 670: *καί σφιν θεσπέσιον πλοῦτον κατέχευε Κρονίων*, Mr. Leaf is careless enough to say that Pindar's phrase in referring to the same shower of gold at Rhodes "is probably only a stronger form of the same metaphor, which he would not have misunderstood." Mr. Leaf has evidently forgotten the Pindaric context: *κείνοις ὁ μὲν ξανθὸν ἀγαγὼν νεφέλῃαν πολλὴν ὥς τε χρυσόν*. The curious fact, first noted by Benfey, that we have in Γ 276 a coincidence with the Sanskrit rule of the combination of a vocative with following nominative, is, as has been pointed out in A. J. P. II 88, nothing but a coincidence, inasmuch as the verse would not be possible without the nominative. It is hardly fair to call it hypercritical to make a distinction between *ἐβαине* (Γ 311) and *ἐβη* (v. 261), and yet to refine on *δίδου* and *δῶκε* (Z 192, H 305) and on *ἤγειρο* and *ἤγῃσατο* (M 101). To insist on a translatable difference, and to admit a sensible difference, are different things. In certain combinations Homer employs imperfect and aorist as sharply as any Attic writer (see on Pind. O. 4, 25), and this being so, we must

be slow to deny differences elsewhere (see A. J. P. IV 157). Extraordinary is the statement that B 288 "is the only case in Homer of *πρίν* with inf. after a negative clause." One example had already occurred, A 98; another was soon to occur, H 481; and enough to satisfy any one can be found in Ebeling's Lexicon, if the last ed. of L. and S. was beneath Mr. Leaf's notice. Unfortunately the point had been omitted in Monro's Homeric Grammar, which Mr. Leaf follows very closely. On H 125, Gelon's parody of this verse, *ἦ κε μέγ' οἰμῶξειεν ὁ Πελοπίδης Ἀγαμέμνων*, is cited as "an interesting proof of the date to which the consciousness survived that a short vowel, at least before a liquid, could be lengthened by the ictus alone." The proof loses much of its interest when one reflects how very loose the Greeks were in their adaptations of poetry, and how remorselessly they spoiled metre in so doing. Plato is a notorious instance. Doubtful form or not, it might be maintained that *βεβλήκοι*, Aristarchos's reading, Θ 270, is absolutely necessary. How can *ἐπεὶ* with indic. be combined in a frequentative action with *δύσκειν*? The active voice of *ἵκωμι* can hardly be called unprecedented; at least we find *τὸν ἱκόντ(α)* in Pind. P. 2, 30, and see note on P. 4, 118. *ἐλέγχειν*, in the sense of "dishonor," may be purely Homeric, but the signification survives in the compound *κατελέγχειν*, Pind. O. 8, 19; P. 8, 36; I 3, 14.

According to a recent memoir of travel by Isabella Bird Bishop, the monks of Mount Sinai are still execrating the memory of Tischendorf. Whether the memory of the distinguished palaeographer Gardthausen will fare better remains to be seen. At any rate, both Gardthausen and the University of Oxford may console themselves for Eastern curses by the gratitude of Western scholars, on whom they have bestowed the handsome *Catalogus Codicum Graecorum Sinaiticorum*. Scripsit V. GARDTHAUSEN (Oxonii, E Typographeo Clarendoniano, MDCCCLXXXVI). The library seems to have grown mysteriously like a plant, and to have shed its leaves mysteriously like a plant. Now a dying monk would bequeath his little store of books to the library, now a pious pilgrim would enrich the stock by a parting present, more or less voluntary. But many of the gifts went even more quietly than they came. In vain the warning words: *τὸ παρὸν βιβλίον τοῦ ἁγίου καὶ θεοβαδίστου ὁρους Σινᾶ· καὶ ὅστις ὑπερῆσει ἀπὸ τὴν ἁγίαν μονὴν να ἔχει τὰς ἀρὰς τῶν πατέρων τῆς ἀκαταφλέκτου βάτου*. The terrors which would naturally attach to the curses of the Fathers of the Burning Bush seem to have been neutralized by their bad Greek, and what monks and pilgrims gave, other monks and pilgrims conveyed to other libraries, and Sinaitic codices are found at Alexandria, Venice and Berlin, as well as at Leipsic and St. Petersburg. Still there are 1223 MSS that Gardthausen has fully described, besides a number to which he did not have access, and he avenges himself by the epigram 'Neque enim bibliotheca caret codicibus sed codices bibliotheca.' To the eye of the lady traveller just cited the library presented a goodly outside, but an expert in such matters would doubtless have discovered dead men's bones and rotteness enough. Five years ago, says Gardthausen, the MSS were in a most deplorable condition, many mutilated, many coverless, and many foul from decay and use, and in consequence of the general absence of folio numbers

he has found it necessary to add the thickness to the other dimensions of the codices. In its externals the volume resembles closely the beautiful *Fragmenta Herculanensia* noticed in the last number of the Journal, VII 91.—There seems to be a curious significance in the selection of Lev. XXII 25 for the facsimile on the cover, but it may be a pure accident, and no reflection on the want of native enterprise or excess of native jealousy.

ΚΑΙΕΚΧΕΙΡΟCΑΛΛΟΓΕΝC . .
 ΟΥΤΡΟCΟΙCΕΤΑΙΤΑΛΩΡ.
 ΤΟΥΘΥΜΩΝΑΤΤΟΤΑΝΤΩ.
 ΤΟΥΤΩΝΟΤΙΦΘΑΡΜΑΤΑΕ
 CΤΙΝΕΝΑΥΤΟΙCΜΩΜΟC
 ΕΝΑΥΤΟΙCΛΕΧΘΗCΕΤΑΙ
 ΤΑΥΤΑΪΜΙΝ.

MR. HENRY SWEET has recently put forth *An Icelandic Primer, with Grammar, Notes, and Glossary* (Oxford, At the Clarendon Press, 1886), which is intended to supply the long-felt "want of a short and easy introduction to the study of Icelandic," Vigfusson and Powell's Icelandic Reader not being quite elementary enough for the beginner. Mr. Sweet has prepared this primer on the lines of his Anglo-Saxon one, and thinks it may "perhaps be the means of inducing some students of Old English to take up Icelandic as well." The Grammar (pp. 1-41), in which he acknowledges "great obligations to Noreen's Altisländische Grammatik, by far the best Icelandic grammar that has yet appeared," is clear and attractive. One only wishes that Mr. Sweet had adopted the grammatical arrangement of the Braune school. The texts (pp. 43-81) "are intended to be as easy, interesting, and representative as possible." The most important are Thor and Útgarðaloki, The Death of Balder, The Death of Olaf Tryggvason, Auðun, and Þryms-Kviða, or the song of Thor's quest of his hammer, "one of the finest of the Eddaic poems." The selection is a most happy one. Three pages of notes, a good glossary (pp. 87-107), and a list of proper names, make up the rest of the book. In preparing the texts and glossary Sweet acknowledges to have had great help from Wimmer's Oldnordisk Læsebog, which he considers to be, "on the whole, the best reading-book that exists in any language." The "book makes no pretension to originality, and will have fulfilled its purpose if it contributes towards restoring to Englishmen that precious heritage—the old language and literature of Iceland—which" their "miserably narrow scheme of education has hitherto defrauded them of." Like the author's A.-S. Primer, this is a practical book, from which much can be learned in a short time. It is adapted to make the study of Icelandic attractive, and is quite free from misprints and omissions, the only misprints noticed being *ungu* for *ungum* (dat. pl.), p. 16; *skor* for *skor* (in the glossary), and *seen* for *seem* (s. v. *þykkja*). The following words have been omitted in the glossary: *es* (= *er*, IV 114), *færi*, "reach," "range," "ability" (II 87), *gegnt*, "opposite to" (VI 154), *gildra*, "to contrive" (VI 23), *görr*, "made," etc. (III 11, *görva*, acc. pl.), *hrjóta*, "to snore" (*hraut*, II 47,

67, *kyrtir*, 67), *kyrtill*, "kirtle," "tunic," etc. (VI 152), *pars*, i. e. *par es* or *par er*, "where" (VII 54), *á-salligr*, "joyless" (VII 94); *vanir* (VIII 61) should have been printed with a capital *v*. The mechanical execution of the book is perfect.

With genuine German disregard of order in time the first half of Vol. I of IWAN MÜLLER'S *Handbuch der klassischen Altertumswissenschaft* comes halting behind the second half of Vol. II. It contains: A. *Grundlegung und Geschichte der klassischen Altertumswissenschaft*, by VON URLICHS; B. *Hermeneutik und Kritik*, by BLASS; C. *Palaeographie, Buchwesen und Handschriftenkunde*, by the same, and the first pages of D. *Griechische Epigraphik*, by G. HINRICHS. It is fortunate that the general view of what people are still pleased to call 'science of antiquity' has fallen into the hands of one who interprets 'classical philology' in the wider sense. The sketch of the history of philology is, of course, somewhat rapid, and is more pleasant reading for one who knows the ground already than it can be for the class of students for whom it is nominally intended; and yet it must be granted that Professor v. Urlichs has paused long enough on the great names to make the due impression on the beginner, and that he has done substantial justice to department and to school. Professor Blass is exceptionally well qualified for the parts that have fallen to his share, and even when one comes to his treatise on Hermeneutics and Criticism after a close reading of Boeckh's admirable sections on these subjects in his Encyclopaedia and Methodology, one marks the advance that the science has made and admires the clearness and practical sense with which principles and processes are stated. Many of the illustrations are drawn from Blass's own special sphere of work, and this gives great life and individuality to the treatment. In this respect one is again reminded of Boeckh, although Boeckh has sometimes drawn his examples from investigations in the results of which the philological world has not always followed him. The diligent use of this manual of Blass's would be of great service to the young philologist, who ought not to be left to pick up his knowledge of the subject from mere practice in the seminary, although, perhaps, it may be best to rouse the interest by practice before proceeding to theory. Every grammarian knows how often interpretation and criticism halt because the interpreter and the critic do not command the entirety of the grammatical material and method. The mere study of isolated points as they come up is not sufficient, and the same thing is true of every great department. Scrap knowledge is the bane of many scholars. Not to see a thing in its connection is not to see it at all.

The fourth half-volume (continuation of Vol. I) completes D (Greek Epigraphy), by the lamented HINRICHS, who was carried off by diphtheria a few weeks since; not, however, until he had seen this portion through the press. E. Roman Epigraphy, is by the masterly hand of Professor HÜBNER, whose monumental work was noticed in this Journal, VI 262; and F. Chronology of the Greeks and Romans, by the indefatigable and microscopic UNGER. These

names guarantee the high level of a work which is indispensable to every classical philologist, young or old. Reprints of the separate articles ("offprints" is the last coinage, we believe) would be very welcome for convenience of use in classes. For such an "offprint" we have to thank Professor HÜBNER, and we hope that the publishing house will see fit to reproduce all the articles in this form.

The present writer has a grateful recollection of Curtius Rufus, whose history of Alexander the Great was a delightful interruption to the orthodox course of Latin text-books as read in the schools of forty years since, and when his turn came to compile a Latin Reader, he was not slow to accept an abridgment of Curtius as a part of it, and to say a few words in favor of the rhetorical worthy, who does not stand so high in the graces of schoolmasters as more tiresome authors. Hence he is disposed to welcome the edition of *Curtius* which Dr. M. C. P. SCHMIDT has recently put forth for the use of schools in the well-known Schenkl Bibliotheca (Leipsic, G. Freytag; Prague, F. Tempsky, 1886). This edition is not intended to be complete. In adapting the work for young students Dr. SCHMIDT has made many omissions, changes and additions. The omissions concern minor engagements, or matters that are either aside from the main story or unsuitable for tender youth. The changes pertain to the distribution of the narrative and to Curtian deviations from standard usage in vocabulary and form. The supplementary parts are taken from Freinsheim, so that the continuity is preserved, and a clear map accompanies the volume, which—like all the volumes of the Schenkl Bibliotheca—is very attractive in its appearance.

The sixth edition of Dr. HOLDEN'S *Cicero de Officiis* is noteworthy for the large number of Supplementary Notes, 36 pp. in all. In his preface Dr. Holden pays a just tribute to the work of C. F. W. Müller, to whom we owe the new recension of Cicero in the Teubner series, and acknowledges the assistance of that admirable Ciceronian scholar, Dr. J. S. Reid. Few editions of a classic have found so much favor as Dr. Holden's *De Officiis*, and the present revision makes the position of the work secure.

Dean CHURCH'S *Trial and Death of Socrates*, a translation into English of the Euthyphron, Apology, Crito and Phaedo of Plato (Macmillan & Co.), was received with just favor upon its first appearance some six years since. In its new and beautiful dress, the translation revised and the introduction expanded, it enters the Golden Treasury Series as one of the most attractive volumes of the set.